

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (canceled)

2. (currently amended) The sanitary cove base of any one of claims 48, 49, or 50~~claim 1~~, wherein said sanitary cove base is constructed from material selected from the group consisting of Acrylonitrile-Butadiene-Styrene, polypropylene, high-density polyethylene, and Polyvinyl Chloride.

3. (currently amended) The sanitary cove base of any one of claims 48, 49, or 50~~claim 1~~, wherein said sanitary cove base is made with the following composition: 98% polyethylene plastic, 1% coloring agent, 1/2% foaming agent, and 1/2% anti-fungal material.

4. (original) The sanitary cove base of claim 3, wherein said sanitary cove base is milled from a solid block of material.

5. (original) The sanitary cove base of claim 3, wherein said sanitary cove base is extruded.

6. (currently amended) The sanitary cove base of any one of claims 48, 49, or 50~~claim 1~~, wherein said sanitary cove base further comprises
a wall-facing surface of said outer wall;
a top surface; and
a bottom surface.

7. (previously presented) The sanitary cove base of claim 6, wherein said wall-facing surface of said outer wall further comprises
a chamfer;
a plurality of adhesive ridges;
a plurality of relief valleys; and
a wall-contact crest.

8. (previously presented) The sanitary cove base of claim 6, wherein said top surface has a width of approximately 0.438 inches, and wherein said abutment surface has a height of approximately 0.500 inches.

9. (currently amended) The sanitary cove base of any one of claims 48, 49, or 50~~claim 1~~, wherein said abutment surface is displaced forwardly from said interior surface of said inner wall by a distance of approximately 0.500 inches.

10. (original) The sanitary cove base of claim 6, wherein said top surface extends horizontally between said wall-facing surface and said interior surface.

11. (withdrawn) The sanitary cove base of claim 6, wherein said top surface extends between said wall-facing surface and said interior surface, and wherein said top surface is substantially horizontal adjacent to said wall-facing surface and is substantially vertical adjacent to said interior surface.

12. (withdrawn) The sanitary cove base of claim 6, wherein said top surface extends between said wall-facing surface and said interior surface, and wherein said top surface slopes downwardly between said wall-facing surface and said interior surface.

13. (withdrawn – currently amended) The sanitary cove base of claim 6 ~~[[12]]~~, wherein said top surface is curved.

14. (withdrawn – currently amended) The sanitary cove base of claim 6 ~~[[12]]~~, wherein said top surface is flat.

15. (original) The sanitary cove base of claim 6, wherein the sanitary cove base has an overall height from said bottom surface to said top surface of approximately 8.0 inches.

16. (original) The sanitary cove base of claim 6, wherein said wall-facing surface of said outer wall further comprises

a plurality of sections of adhesive ridges; and

a plurality of relief valleys, wherein each section of adhesive ridges of said plurality of sections of adhesive ridges is separated from a next adjacent section of adhesive ridges

of said plurality of sections of adhesive ridges by a relief valley of said plurality of relief valleys.

17. (original) The sanitary cove base of claim 16 further comprising a wall-contact crest extending rearwardly from said wall-facing surface of said outer wall, wherein said plurality of relief valleys comprises an upper relief valley, wherein said plurality of sections of adhesive ridges comprises an upper section of adhesive ridges, and wherein said upper relief valley separates said upper section of adhesive ridges from said wall-contact crest.

18. (original) The sanitary cove base of claim 17, wherein a top sidewall of said upper relief valley connects said wall-contact crest to a floor of said upper relief valley.

19. (original) The sanitary cove base of claim 16 further comprising a wall-contact crest that extends rearwardly from said wall-facing surface of said outer wall a first distance, wherein each adhesive ridge of said plurality of sections of adhesive ridges extends rearwardly from said wall-facing surface of said outer wall a second distance, and wherein said first distance equals said second distance.

20. (original) The sanitary cove base of claim 16, wherein each adhesive ridge within a first section of adhesive ridges is displaced from a next adjacent adhesive ridge in said first section of adhesive ridges by a distance of approximately 0.125 inches.

21. (original) The sanitary cove base of claim 16, wherein said adhesive ridges extend rearwardly from said wall-facing surface of said outer wall approximately 0.063 inches.

Claims 22-25 (canceled)

26. (currently amended) The sanitary cove base of claim 49 ~~[[25]]~~, wherein said third hollow channel is an upper, small hollow channel; wherein said eighth hollow channel is a lower, small hollow channel; and wherein said upper, small hollow channel and said lower, small hollow channel are shorter than each of said top hollow channel, said second hollow channel, said fourth hollow channel, said fifth hollow channel, said sixth hollow channel, said seventh hollow channel, and said ninth hollow channel.

27. (previously presented) The sanitary cove base of claim 26, wherein said upper, small hollow channel and said lower, small hollow channel are each adapted to receive an attachment screw.

28. (currently amended) The sanitary cove base of claim 49 [[25]], wherein said top hollow channel is approximately 0.636 inches high vertically; said second hollow channel is approximately 0.942 inches high vertically; said third hollow channel is approximately 0.404 inches high vertically; said fourth hollow channel is approximately 0.754 inches tall vertically; said fifth hollow channel is approximately 0.923 inches tall vertically; said sixth hollow channel is approximately 0.861 inches tall vertically; said seventh hollow channel is approximately 0.504 inches tall vertically; said eighth hollow channel is approximately 0.404 inches tall vertically; said ninth hollow channel is approximately 0.817 inches tall vertically; and said large, lower channel is approximately 0.641 inches tall vertically.

29. (currently amended) The sanitary cove base of claim 49 [[28]], wherein each of said hollow channels is approximately 0.125 inches wide between said inner wall and said outer wall.

30. (currently amended) The sanitary cove base of claim 49 [[25]], wherein said plurality of longitudinally-extending web members comprises nine longitudinally-extending web members that extend between said outer wall and said inner wall; and wherein each of said nine longitudinally-extending web members separates one of said top hollow channel, said second hollow channel, said third hollow channel, said fourth hollow channel, said fifth hollow channel, said sixth hollow channel, said seventh hollow channel, said eighth hollow channel, said ninth hollow channel, and said large, lower channel from a next adjacent hollow channel.

31. (currently amended) The sanitary cove base of claim 49 [[30]], wherein each of said nine-web members is approximately 0.096 inches thick vertically.

Claim 32 (canceled)

33. (currently amended) The sanitary cove base of claim 50 ~~[[32]]~~, wherein said top wall, said inner wall, said sweep wall, said floor wall, said bottom wall, said chamfer wall, and said outer wall are all approximately 0.125 inches thick.

34. (currently amended) The sanitary cove base of any one of claims 48, 49, or 50 ~~claim 1~~ further comprising
a first plurality of screw insertion holes through said inner wall and adapted to accept an attachment screw; and
a second plurality of buttons, each button being frictionally received in one of said first plurality of screw insertion holes.

Claims 35-43 (canceled)

44. (withdrawn – currently amended) The sanitary cove base of any one of claims 48, 49, or 50 ~~claim 43~~, wherein the plurality of hollow channels are adapted to receive injected gas and/or cooling water during manufacturing of the cove base to facilitate more accurate and predictable formation of the sanitary cove base without the sanitary cove base unacceptably warping and/or distorting.

45. (withdrawn – currently amended) The sanitary cove base of any one of claims 48 or 49 ~~claim 43~~, further comprising a chamfer adapted to form a relief region at a juncture of an adjacent wall and subfloor where the sanitary cove base is installed.

46. (withdrawn – currently amended) The sanitary cove base of claim 45, wherein the relief region is configured to facilitate installation of the sanitary cove base despite irregularities at the juncture of the adjacent wall and ~~the~~ subfloor.

47. (withdrawn) The sanitary cove base of claim 45, wherein the relief region is configured to reduce room preparation time and thereby facilitates installation of the sanitary cove base since a small amount of debris may remain without interfering with the installation of the sanitary cove base.

48. (new) A sanitary cove base comprising the following:
an outer wall;

an inner wall having an interior surface, wherein said interior surface comprises a sanitary sweep and an abutment surface adapted to abut adjacent flooring;
a plurality of longitudinally-extending web members existing between said outer wall and said inner wall, thereby connecting said outer wall to said inner wall;
a plurality of hollow channels, each hollow channel being defined between
 said inner wall,
 said outer wall,
 a first longitudinally-extending web member of said plurality of
 longitudinally-extending web members, and
 a next adjacent longitudinally-extending web member of said plurality of
 longitudinally-extending web members;
a lower end having a large, lower channel extending therethrough; and
a vertical portion, wherein said vertical portion comprises
 at least a first part of said outer wall;
 at least a first part of said inner wall; and
 a plurality of hollow channels, wherein said plurality of hollow channels
 comprises
 an upper, small hollow channel; and
 a lower, small hollow channel.

49. (new) A sanitary cove base comprising the following:
an outer wall;
an inner wall having an interior surface, wherein said interior surface comprises a sanitary sweep and an abutment surface adapted to abut adjacent flooring;
a plurality of longitudinally-extending web members existing between said outer wall and said inner wall, thereby connecting said outer wall to said inner wall;
a plurality of hollow channels, each hollow channel being defined between
 said inner wall,
 said outer wall,
 a first longitudinally-extending web member of said plurality of
 longitudinally-extending web members, and
 a next adjacent longitudinally-extending web member of said plurality of
 longitudinally-extending web members;
a lower end, wherein a large, lower channel extends through said lower end; and

a vertical portion, wherein said vertical portion comprises a plurality of hollow channels, and wherein said plurality of hollow channels comprises

- a top hollow channel;
- a second hollow channel, said second hollow channel located below said top hollow channel;
- a third hollow channel, said third hollow channel located below said second hollow channel;
- a fourth hollow channel, said fourth hollow channel located below said third hollow channel;
- a fifth hollow channel, said fifth hollow channel located below said fourth hollow channel;
- a sixth hollow channel, said sixth hollow channel located below said fifth hollow channel;
- a seventh hollow channel, said seventh hollow channel located below said sixth hollow channel;
- an eighth hollow channel, said eighth hollow channel located below said seventh hollow channel; and
- a ninth hollow channel, said ninth hollow channel located below said eighth hollow channel and above said large, lower channel.

50. (new) A sanitary cove base comprising the following:

- an outer wall;
- an inner wall having an interior surface, wherein said interior surface comprises a sanitary sweep and an abutment surface adapted to abut adjacent flooring;
- a plurality of longitudinally-extending web members existing between said outer wall and said inner wall, thereby connecting said outer wall to said inner wall;
- a plurality of hollow channels, each hollow channel being defined between
 - said inner wall,
 - said outer wall,
 - a first longitudinally-extending web member of said plurality of longitudinally-extending web members, and
 - a next adjacent longitudinally-extending web member of said plurality of longitudinally-extending web members;
- a top wall;
- a sweep wall;

a floor wall;
a bottom wall; and
a chamfer wall.

51. (New) The sanitary cove base of any one of claim 50, wherein said chamfer wall is adapted to form a relief region at a juncture of an adjacent wall and subfloor where the sanitary cove base is installed.